

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 KABUL 06233 301316Z

43

ACTION NEA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9770

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 6233

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AF,US OVIP

SUBJ: TALKING POINTS FOR WAHEED ABDULLAH VISIT

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TALKING POINT PAPER FOR USE BY STATE AND USUN OFFICIALS WHO WILL MEET WITH AFGHAN DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER WAHEED ABDULLAH DURING HIS VISIT TO NEW YORK AND WASHINGTON BEGINNING OCTOBER 5. WE ASSUME DEPARTMENT WILL WORK THESE SUGGESTIONS OVER AND TRANSMIT INSTRUCTIONS TO AMBASSADOR SCALI AS REQUESTED USUN 3440. WE HAVE THEREFORE NOT REPEATED THIS TELEGRAM TO USUN.WE ARE TRANSMITTING BY SEPTELS BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR ABDULLAH'S VISIT AND WILL REPEAT THEM TO USUN.

2. WHAT WE CAN EXPECT TO ACHIEVE FROM THE VISIT.

A. IMPROVED PERSONAL UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNICATION AT THE SENIOR LEVELS OF OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS. EXCEPT FOR ABDULLAH'S BRIEF VISIT TO WASHINGTON A YEAR AGO, THERE HAS BEEN NO SENIOR POLICY-LEVEL CONTACT BETWEEN US SINCE DAOUD REGAINED POWER IN JULY 1973. IN A GOVERNMENT LIKE AFGHANISTAN'S
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 KABUL 06233 301316Z

THE CHIEF OF STATE NEEDS TO FEEL A PERSONAL SENSE OF CONTACT

WITH HIS FOREIGN COUNTERPARTS. BETTER UNDERSTANDING AND COMMUNICATION MAY BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT AS AFGHANISTAN'S RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, PARTICULARLY PAKISTAN AND IRAN, PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN THE STABILITY OF SOUTH ASIA.

B. INCREASED AFGHAN UNDERSTANDING OF OUR POSITIONS ON ISSUES WHICH ALSO CONCERN THEM, SUCH AS DETENTE, THE MIDDLE EAST AND WORLD ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, BUT ESPECIALLY OF OUR HOPES FOR STABILITY IN SOUTH ASIA.

C. REASSURANCE TO THE AFGHANS THAT WE UNDERSTAND, APPRECIATE AND SUPPORT THEIR DEDICATION TO NON-ALIGNMENT AND INDEPENDENCE.

D. ENHANCED UNDERSTANDING OF THE AMERICAN CONTRIBUTION TO AFGHAN DEVELOPMENT AND A REALISTIC PROJECTION OF WHAT AFGHANISTAN MAY EXPECT IN THE FUTURE.

3. ISSUES ABDULLAH IS LIKELY TO RAISE.

A. US AFGHAN RELATIONS. ABDULLAH MAY EXPRESS APPRECIATION FOR PAST AMERICAN ASSISTANCE AND HIS GOVERNMENT'S HOPE FOR A CONTINUED VISIBLE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN AFGHANISTAN. ALTHOUGH ABDULLAH MAY NOT BE SO EXPLICIT, THE AFGHANS WOULD LIKE A DEMONSTRATION OF US ASSISTANCE WHICH WOULD GO BEYOND THE PROGRAMS NOW IN PROGRESS. (THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW MAJOR PROJECTS IN OUR AID PROGRAM SINCE THE ADVENT OF THE REPUBLICAN REGIME IN JULY 1973). THIS FITS IN WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL DESIRE TO MAINTAIN THEIR INDEPENDENCE BY DEMONSTRATING TO THE SOVIET UNION THAT THEY ARE NOT TOTALLY DEPENDENT ON RUSSIAN AID.

B. AFGHAN-PAK RELATIONS. ABDULLAH WILL FORCEFULLY BRING TO OUR ATTENTION AFGHAN CONCERN ABOUT WHAT THEY CONSIDER THE ILLEGAL AND REPRESSIVE ACTIONS OF THE PAKISTANI GOVERNMENT AGAINST THE AFGHAN'S PUSHTUN AND BALUCHI "BROTHERS" IN PAKISTAN'S FRONTIER PROVINCES. HE IS LIKELY TO ASK THAT WE COUNSEL AND/OR EXERCISE RESTRAINT ON PRIME MINISTER BHUTTO AND URGE HIM TO TREAT WITH THE PUSHTUN AND BALUCHI

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 KABUL 06233 301316Z

LEADERS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PAK CONSTITUTION. IN THIS CONNECTION, ABDULLAH MAY ALSO ADVISE AGAINST A RESUMPTION BY THE US OF THE SALE OF LETHAL ARMS TO PAKISTAN.

4. TALKING POINTS FOR US OFFICIALS.

A. WITH REGARD TO US-AFGHAN RELATIONS, WE SHOULD UNDERLINE OUR PLEASURE AT THE EXCELLENT STATE OF RELATIONS NOW

EXISTING BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES.

B. WITH RESPECT TO AID, WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT WE HAVE MAINTAINED OUR AIR PROGRAM AT THE SAME LEVEL OF RECENT YEARS AT A TIME WHEN THERE IS STRONG PRESSURE FROM THE CONGRESS AND THE AMERICAN PEOPLE TO REDUCE AID. FURTHERMORE, WE SHOULD POINT OUT THAT THERE ARE POSSIBILITIES FOR NEW FORMS OF US ASSISTANCE, PARTICULARLY PEOPLE-ORIENTED PROJECTS IN EDUCATION, RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND PUBLIC HEALTH AND FOOD PRODUCTION, IF THE AFGHANS SO DESIRE AND IF WE CAN DEVELOP MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE PROJECTS.

C. IN THE AREA OF AFGHAN-PAK PROBLEMS, WE SHOULD EXPRESS THE HOPE THAT THE TWO COUNTRIES WILL FIND A WAY TO SETTLE THEIR DIFFERENCES WITHOUT RESORTING TO INFLAMMATORY RHETORIC OR WORSE, TO HOSTILITIES. WE SHOULD MAKE IT CLEAR THAT AS FRIENDS OF BOTH AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN, WE BELIEVE THEY HAVE MORE COMMON INTERESTS THAN COMMON DIFFERENCES, AND HOPE THAT THE COMMON ELEMENTS -- TRADE, BUSINESS, TOURISM, TRANSIT TRAFFIC--WILL PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR IMPROVED RELATIONS. WE SHOULD SCRUPULOUSLY AVOID GETTING INTO THE MIDDLE OF THESE PROBLEMS.

D. WITH REGARD TO IRAN, WE SHOULD WELCOME THE IMPROVED RELATIONS BETWEEN IRAN AND AFGHANISTAN AND CONGRATULATE THE AFGHANS ON THEIR STATESMANSHIP IN EFFECTING THIS NEW RELATIONSHIP.

F. IF THE OPPORTUNITY PRESENTS ITSELF, WE SHOULD TAKE THE AFGHANS INTO OUR CONFIDENCE AND GIVE THEM OUR VIEWS AND CONCERNS WITH REGARD TO EAST/WEST DETENTE, THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION, WORLD FOOD PROBLEMS, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION AND THE ENERGY CRISIS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 KABUL 06233 301316Z

G. ON UNITED NATIONS ISSUES, EMBASSY KABUL HAS BRIEFED WAHEED ABDULLAH AND AFGHAN GOVERNMENT (KABUL 5770) ON ISSUES OF CONCERN TO USG IN CURRENT SESSION OF UNGA. THERE WILL BE NO HARM IN REMINDING ABDULLAH THAT THE NON-ALIGNMENT THE AFGHANS SAY THEY REPRESENT MEANS EVEN-HANDEDNESS IN FOREIGN RELATIONS ISSUES SUCH AS THE CAMBODIAN REPRESENTATION MATTER AND THE KOREAN ISSUE.

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